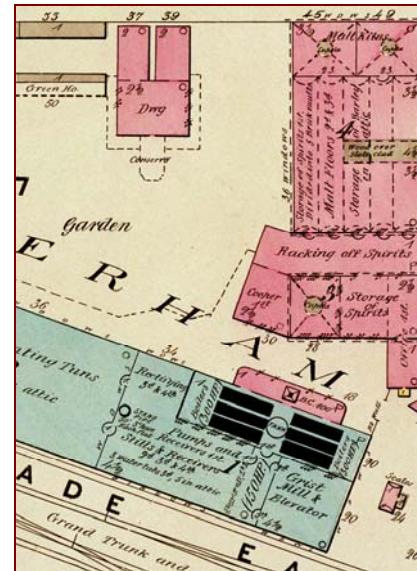


for April 29, 2007

Residential Roots: William Gooderham



William Gooderham estate, no date



Gooderham surrounded, 1880

Victorian industrialists tended to live near “the works” so it’s no surprise to learn that founding-partner William Gooderham soon established himself on the edge of his growing empire. Of course, when he first put down residential roots, the area around the 1832 windmill was quite bucolic, with trees, creeks, wildlife, and an unimpeded view of Toronto Bay.

Around 1850, Gooderham built a large Victorian villa on the south side of Mill Street (then called Front Street), with a long “garden” sweeping toward the mill that was no longer powered by wind. In 1860, William’s daughter-in-law Sarah described the glories of the house:

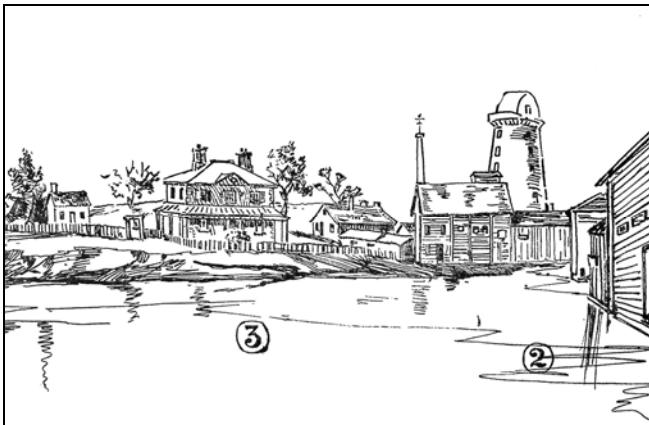
So convenient, hot and cold soft water to be had at anytime day or night by just turning a tap...a fire-place in every room in the house, the marble slabs of each cost two hundred dollars and at the opening they had a party of fifty couples...

in the many-mirrored, pale green-and-gold ballroom.

From his great spreading verandah, Goodeham enjoyed a panoramic view of the Lake and his expanding business. In 1860, the Stone Distillery opened. Thereafter, distillery expansion pressed ever closer, with The Maltings (Buildings 35 and 36) and The Cooperage (Buildings 32-34) rising in the early 1860s, and The Pure Spirits complex (Buildings 53-57) across Trinity Street in the early 1870s.

Gooderham remained in his Mill Street home, and within easy walking distance of his office, until his death in 1881. A few years later, this gracious villa, with conservatory and greenhouses, was finally demolished to make way for more distillery expansion in the form of two new rack houses.

Now change is upon the site once again. As you watch a new generation of residential development – the Pure Spirits condos – rise, give a thought to William Gooderham and the large family he raised on the very same spot.



Gooderham estate from waterfront, 1851



**Two one-storey rack houses replaced
Gooderham estate, 1896**

Thanks to Douglas Worts for sharing the rare photograph of William Gooderham's estate; and to C. M. Blackstock's book, ***All the Journey Through***, for the 1860 description of the house. The photograph has been slightly rotated and cropped.

Please send your comments or questions to Manager of Heritage Services, Sally Gibson,
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